REMARKS

Claims 11 - 28 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action, claims 11 - 12 and 18 - 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Simpson US 5,946,180 in view of Daffron U.S. 6,046,441. Also, in the Office Action, claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Simpson US 5,946,180 in view of Daffron U.S. 6,046,441 as applied to claim 11, and further in view of Aromin U.S. 5,943,199. Additionally, in the Office Action, claims 14 – 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Simpson US 5,946,180 in view of Daffron U.S. 6,046,441 and Aromin U.S. 5,943,199 as applied to claim 13, and further in view of Cheyne U.S. 5,604,387. Additionally, in the Office Action, claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Simpson US 5,946,180 in view of Liu US 6,603,221 and Daffron U.S. 6,046,441 as applied to claim 11, and further in view of Aromin U.S. 5,943,199. Also, in the Office Action, claims 22, 23, and 25 - 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Simpson US 5,946,180 in view of Liu US 6,603,221 and Daffron U.S. 6,046,441, as applied to claim 21, and further in view of Justi et al US 3,973,192. Moreover, in the Office Action, claims 22, 24 - 26, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Simpson US 5,946,180 in view of Liu US 6,603,221 and Daffron U.S. 6,046,441, as applied to claim 21, and further in view of Marshall US 1,979,976.

US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson discloses an electrical connection safety apparatus that detects the electrical current rating of electrical cords or connectors which are plugged into electrical outlets and disconnects power to the outlet and connector whenever the cord current rating is exceeded. The electrical connection safety apparatus can be used in the form of adaptors which couple to conventional electrical connectors and electrical outlets.

US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron discloses a device for disabling an electrical appliance when a fire erupts, the device including an auxiliary plug member 1 within which is a circuit breaker mechanism for disabling power to the electrical device upon receiving a signal from a fire detection assembly comprising a plurality of carbon sensing means such as a conventional carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide detector.

US Patent No. 5,943,199 to Aromin discloses a miniature appliance leakage current interrupter 11 connected to a mains plug.

US Patent No. 5,604,387 to Cheyne discloses low voltage switch 7 for supplying a low voltage load to an appliance such as a laundry machine.

US Patent No. 6,603,221 to Liu discloses a method of intelligently, or automatically, resetting a switch or relay after a power interruption in order to avoid accidents that may occur when the supply of power is resumed unexpectedly.

With respect to the rejection of claims 11 -20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson in view of US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron as the primary references, it is submitted that neither US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson nor US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron, alone or in combination, teaches or discloses the device recited in claim 11 of the instant application, wherein the recited fire protection device for domestic appliances includes at least one fault current circuit breaker coupled to the input electrical supply of at least one conductor of a domestic appliance, which fault current circuit breaker disconnects the electrical supply from the appliance when the fault current circuit breaker senses a fault current in the at least one conductor; and at least one gas

sensor coupled to sense the quantity of at least one control gas in the appliance, which gas sensor also causes the electrical supply to be disconnected from the appliance when the gas sensor senses a predetermined quantity of the at least one control gas.

In the Office Action, it is asserted that US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson teaches a fault current circuit breaker coupled to the input electrical supply of at least one conductor of a domestic appliance and it is further asserted that it would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made to have modified the fault current circuit breaker arrangement of US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson with the gas sensor of US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron for sensing gaseous combustion by-products for the purpose of providing a fire protection device that sense both fault currents and gaseous combustion by-products. However, Applicants submit that US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson provides no hint of the desirability of sensing gaseous combustion by-products, such as is recited in claim 11 of the present application, and US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron provides no hint of the desirability of a fault current circuit breaker coupled to the input electrical supply of at least one conductor of a domestic appliance. Thus, neither US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson nor US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron themselves provide one of ordinary skill in the art with some motivation to combine US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson and US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron with one another. Moreover, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were provided with some motivation to combine US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson and US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron with one another, which Applicants submit there is not, the arrangement asserted by the Office Action from selectively combining US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson and US Patent No. 6,046,441 to Daffron would still not perform the same function or operate in the same manner as the device recited in claim 11 of the present application.

Additionally, it is submitted that US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson does not teach or disclose a fire protection device for domestic appliances including at least one fault current circuit breaker for the reason that US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson merely disclose an electrical connection safety apparatus that detects the electrical current rating of electrical cords or connectors which are plugged into electrical outlets and disconnects power to the outlet and connector whenever the cord current rating is exceeded. Thus, the electrical connection safety apparatus of US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson operates in the event that an excess current, such as may lead to an overheating of the electrical cords, is detected. In contrast, the fire protection device for domestic appliances recited in claim 11 of the present application detects a fault current that can occur because the electrical cords are in contact with the housing of the domestic appliance and an electrical current flows throug the housing of the domestic appliance and may injure a person touching or near the domestic appliance.

Thus, it is accordingly believed to be clear that the primary reference US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson does not show or suggest the features of claim 11. Additionally, it is submitted that the secondary references US Patent No. 5,943,199 to Aromin and US Patent No. 5,604,387 to Cheyne fail to overcome the deficiencies of the primary reference US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson. Claim 11 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and, since claims 12 - 20 are ultimately dependent on claim 11, it is submitted that claims 12 – 20 are patentable for at least the reason that claim 11 is patentable. Moreover, in view of the deficiencies of the primary references US Patent No. 5,946,180 to Simpson, it is submitted that claim 22, claims 23 and 24 ultimately dependent upon claim 22, claim 25, and claims 26 – 28 ultimately dependent upon claim 25, are patentable for at least the reason that claim 11 is patentable.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 11 – 28 is solicited.

Respectfully submitted

Russell W. Warnock
Registration No. 32,860
August 28, 2006

BSH Home Appliances Corp.
100 Bosch Blvd
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: 252-672-7927
Fax: 714-845-2807
russ.warnock@bshg.com